

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

### CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

## DRY HYDRANT

(Each)

### CODE 432

#### DEFINITION

A non-pressurized permanent pipe assembly system installed into water source that permits the withdrawal of water by suction.

#### PURPOSE

To provide all weather access to an available water source for fire suppression.

#### CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Where a dependable source of water is available, where transport vehicles can access the site, and where a source of water is needed for fire suppression.

#### CRITERIA

*All Dry Hydrants planned, designed and installed in Louisiana shall follow the criteria found in this Standard and Louisiana Design Note 1, "Dry Hydrant Planning and Design Guide for Louisiana", dated October 1995.*

**Site Conditions.** Site conditions shall be such that an all weather vehicle access is available to the dry hydrant or can be developed. The dry hydrant shall be reasonably close to the water source to minimize the length of suction line. This should be determined in conjunction with local fire officials. If streams are used as water sources, those with sand and gravel bottoms provide the best operating conditions. Special care and maintenance will be required when debris and fine soil particles are a part of the streambed.

**Water Requirement.** The quantity of water to be considered available to a dry hydrant is the minimum available (at not over 15 feet of total static head) during a drought condition having an

average 50 year recurrence interval (2% chance of occurrence). The minimum quantity of water required to be considered a dependable supply at the previously referenced conditions is 30,000 gallons (1.1 acre-inches or 4010 cubic feet of pumpable impoundment water). The minimum design capacity shall be 500 gpm unless a calculated rate of flow available from the water supply can justify a reduced rate. The minimum reduced rate shall be 250 gpm without interruption for 2 hours.

**Location.** A location map showing the exact site of the hydrant and vehicle access shall be furnished to the local fire department with a copy to the landowner. A letter of approval to use the site shall be obtained from the landowner prior to construction. Access, topography, and location should be reviewed by fire department personnel prior to installation.

The fire truck connection shall be within 10 feet of the edge of an all weather access road. The all weather access road and fire truck pumper connection shall be higher than the auxiliary spillway elevation if installed in a constructed impoundment.

Sites on certain water bodies may require special permits. It will be the responsibility of the owner to obtain any federal, state or local permits before construction begins.

**Water supply.** The water supply may be a natural or constructed impoundment. The adequacy of the water supply shall be determined and documented. The adequacy of the water supply may be documented by the methods outlined in "Dry Hydrant Planning and Design Guide for Louisiana" or by other acceptable methods utilizing water budgets, long term ground water depths and experience which will ensure adequate water at the

50 year drought level. The RESOP or similar computer program can be used to determine the water supply contained by earthen construction or water impounding embankments. Care shall be taken to ensure that the water impoundment is not created by temporary or uncontrollable measures such as beaver activity.

For a natural stream or channel the 50-year drought elevation shall be documented from regional analysis of stream gage data.

**Pipe.** The pipe material may be iron, steel or plastic. It shall be watertight and fitted with intake screen and standard fire truck hose adapters for quick connect/release operations acceptable to and approved by the local fire department. Pipe shall be 6 inches nominal diameter or larger. No more than two 90-degree elbows shall be used in the entire pipe system.

Steel pipe shall be standard weight and meet the requirements of the American Society for the Testing of Materials (ASTM) Specification A-53. Steel pipe and connections shall be galvanized in accordance with ASTM A-53. Used steel pipe may be utilized provided it is essentially equal in quality to new pipe and approved by the authorized NRCS employee.

Plastic pipe shall be PVC schedule 40, SDR 26 or stronger and meet the requirements of ASTM Specification D-1785 or D-2241.

All PVC pipe and fittings shall be joined together using Tetrahydrofurane (THF) primer, and between an 800-1000 centipoise viscosity cement. Never use all-purpose cement to join PVC pipe and fittings.

**Pipe Intake.** The pipe intake depth shall be calculated from the design water elevation (50-year drought level plus the minimum 30,000-gal. storage) plus pipe diameter plus 2 feet. The intake screen should have a minimum opening of 4 times the pipe cross sectional area. Where the intake is more than 3 feet off the bottom, a trash rack may be used in lieu of a screen.

A dry hydrant installation shall provide for a positive slope toward the water source. In pits or impoundment's, the intake screen or strainer shall be supported and secured at least two feet above the pool bottom. The intake shall be at least 5 feet beyond the earth slope. Where a sump is utilized, a

minimum of 2 foot is required from the bottom of the intake and the sump bottom. The sump bottom must extend a minimum of 5 feet in each direction around the intake screen.

To avoid a vortex or whirlpool during pumping, the top of the inlet pipe shall be at least 2.0 feet below the design water level unless a special design is prepared to prevent vortex. The intake screen may be set 1 foot below the design water level if the manufacturer of the intake screen has documentation stating that vortexes will not occur at above stated conditions and at design flow rates.

**Pump Lift.** The top of the fire truck pumping connection or centerline of pump (whichever is higher) shall be no more than 15 feet in elevation above the bottom of the fire protection pool or stream surface during drought conditions.

The fire truck connection shall be approximately 24 inches above the ground surface, but never higher than the intake of the using fire truck.

The total lift (pumping head) shall not exceed 20 feet when all losses are totaled. Pumping head for each site shall include head loss from screen or strainer, elbows, line friction, elevation (static head), and hard rubber or flexible suction hose to the fire truck.

**Dry Barrel.** Dry barrel (conventional) hydrants may not be used due to excess suction loss and the necessity that they be absolutely airtight.

A recessed hydrant (below ground-level connection) may be specified for use in areas with special needs, such as in a high vandalism area or for low profile and esthetic needs. It is also referred to as a flush mount hydrant and does not require the 24-inch riser. It may be used with the 45° or straight dry hydrant head assembly.

**Dry Hydrant Head.** The hydrant sleeve shall be made of bronze, brass, aluminum alloy or other durable, non-corrosive metal. Sleeve must be permanently affixed inside a PVC head using epoxy adhesive and stainless steel bolts.

The hydrant head shall be able to accept a 6-inch NHT (American National Fire Hose Thread) connection to provide maximum supply. Hydrant (6 inch) head shall conform to ASTM 2466.

All hydrants shall contain a removable head strainer and stainless steel snap ring that can be removed

without special tools. The strainer shall be conical in shape to maximize straining area. All hydrants shall use a rubber "O" ring between the threaded sleeve and PVC head.

**Dry Hydrant Cap.** The cap shall be of snap-on/snap-off design and removable without special tools. It shall be joined with a steel cable or chain and be permanently attached to the dry hydrant head. The cap shall be hard plastic or of same metal as NHT connection for maximum corrosion resistance.

**Strainer.** The strainer shall be fabricated from PVC material compatible with the pipe. Individual inlet holes shall not exceed 3/8-inch diameter. All components, including pins, shall be non-corrosive. Manufactured well screens shall be corrosion resistant. Screens and strainers shall have a minimum open area of 4 times the pipe cross sectional area.

A strainer may be formed by drilling 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch diameter holes with a minimum of one hole diameter between the holes in PVC pipe. Drill holes shall be deburred and the pipe cleaned before putting the strainer into service. The screens or strainers shall be capped with a removable end cap.

**End Cap.** The end cap must be easily removed without special tools. Perforations are recommended in the end cap, also, to improve flow conditions into the strainer and for jetting action for silt cleanout.

**Materials.** All materials shall meet or exceed the minimum requirements for materials described in the various sections of this standard."

**Access.** Vehicle access to and from the dry hydrant shall be provided for fire truck and pumper units. Access shall have an all-weather surface, be well drained and be at least 12 feet wide for ease of movement by personnel and equipment during an emergency. When local road traffic may be involved, an all-weather road surface adjacent to the dry hydrant and completely off the public road is recommended for safety of the emergency personnel and the public. Signs shall be posted to aid in preventing the public from blocking access to the site by fire trucks.

**Markings.** The dry hydrant shall be clearly marked in a manner acceptable to the fire department. Use of reflective paint on signs and connection cap will

improve visibility during emergencies. Physical barriers may be needed to protect the portion of the hydrant above ground.

**Protection.** After the dry hydrant installation, the site shall be graded for surface drainage and vegetated or otherwise protected from erosion. Vegetation shall be in accordance with Critical Area Planting Standard and Specification (342).

## CONSIDERATIONS

1. Effect of the use of the dry hydrant on upstream and downstream water quantity.
2. Sediment production caused by erosion during construction.
3. Possible effects on surface and ground water of spilled fuels and lubricants by fire trucks using the dry hydrant.
4. This practice has the potential to negatively affect National Register listed or eligible (significant) cultural resources (archaeological, historical or traditional cultural properties); it also has the potential to protect listed or eligible historic structures. Consider these factors during planning and also follow the NRCS State policy during construction and maintenance.

## PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for installing dry hydrants shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. Required permits shall be obtained prior to initiating any work.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Keeping the site clear of obstruction and regular mowing of the dry hydrant access area will be required to keep the area readily available for emergency use.

Pumper testing of the dry hydrant shall be done at least annually to verify site usability. This test shall include back flushing, followed by a pumper test at the maximum designed flow rate. Careful attention should be given to silt, debris, aquatic growth, or other interference that may limit the full operation of the dry hydrant.

Checks of the intake screen should be made once every five years to identify any sediment build up

and to provide information for a clean-out operation or for aquatic growth control needs. The hydrant should be back-flushed each spring and fall to remove any silt or debris that may have accumulated on the screen.